

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 8, 2004 (BOS Mtg. 9/21/04)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: 2006-2011 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program

Each year the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) gives localities the opportunity to state their priorities with respect to road construction projects in the Interstate, Primary, and Urban systems at a series of public hearings conducted throughout Virginia. The Commonwealth Transportation Board and VDOT use the input provided by localities to formulate the annual Six-Year Improvement Program.

This year, the Commonwealth Transportation Board has established a schedule that will allow comments to be received from localities and citizens well in advance of the time that the program is formulated and released for review. Written comments will be accepted by the CTB through October 9th and a video-conference public hearing for the Hampton Roads District will be conducted on September 21, 2004 at 6:00 p.m., the same night as your meeting. Consistent with past practice, I recommend that the Board express its position/requests in the form of a resolution and accompanying material to be transmitted to the CTB for the official record.

As the Board is aware, over the past several years significant reductions have been made in the funding available for transportation improvement projects and new procedures have been put in place to estimate the cost of projects. As a result of diminishing funding and escalating costs, the Commonwealth Transportation Board was forced to remove many projects from the Six-Year Plan. This provided a more realistic, although disappointing, picture of future transportation improvements. The projections for the next six years are no different. In fact, the CTB is anticipating a six-year program of \$6.3 billion, which is \$1.1 billion less than in the current program.

The Route 17 widening project is an example of the funding difficulties faced by the CTB and the consequences for the County. The Six-Year Plan approved by the CTB in July 2003 represented a major success for the Board of Supervisors since it included an additional \$14 million for the Route 17 widening project between Wolftrap Road and Route 134 (bringing the total project allocation to \$31 million). Unfortunately, by the time the current Six-Year Plan was adopted by the CTB in July 2004, available funding had diminished so substantially on a statewide basis that all the construction funding for the Route 17 project (\$10 million) was cut from the plan. The good news is that project design is continuing and right-of-way acquisition funds remain in the budget; however, according to a recent letter from Commissioner Shucet, construction funding is dependent on additional revenues being provided to VDOT by the General Assembly. If that occurs, it may be possible to advertise the project for construction in late 2007. If not, there is no way to predict when funds might be available for construction.

Of course, Route 17 is not the only Primary System need in York County. Therefore, I have prepared the attached proposed resolution to set out recommended improvement priorities for York County. I recommend its adoption so that it can be transmitted to the CTB prior to October 9th. I have also attached a proposed position statement that supplements the basic priority listing contained in the resolution. I recommend adoption of proposed Resolution No. R04-140.

Carter/3337:jmc

Attachments

- Proposed Position Statement – 2006-2011 Project Requests and Priorities
- Proposed Resolution No. R04-140